

# YOUR Finsbury Park

Haringey  
LONDON

CELEBRATING

150  
YEARS OF FINSBURY PARK

Working together to keep your neighbourhood thriving

[This document was delivered to the park's local households in the week beginning 15 March 2020]

With 2020 now upon us, I want to update you on what events are proposed to take place in Finsbury Park over this calendar year, what happened in 2019, and how the events we host here enhance the park's facilities and upkeep throughout the year.

As well as being a beautiful, green public space, Finsbury Park is an iconic concert venue that has hosted many fantastic festivals and gigs over the years. We want to continue this long-standing tradition of showcasing great music in the park, where the events are accessible, inclusive and safe.

As guardians of Finsbury Park, we've listened to your feedback and the opinions of associated stakeholders with regards to the scheduled major events during the 2020 season. As a result, the major event season will consist of seven event days over three consecutive weekends from mid-June to mid-July, with far fewer build and break days overall.

There will be no major events held at the park for the rest of the year with the Bandstand Field unavailable for general use for that concentrated stretch between June and July.

This condensed approach will still allow the park to generate sufficient income for its basic maintenance, enhanced staffing levels and a reasonable level of investment within it.

Our focus now will be on responding to the investment priorities set as part of the recent public consultation about the park, including making it a more accessible, inclusive, safer and more secure place for everybody to enjoy.

This past year has, of course, been a momentous one for Finsbury Park as it turned 150 and we held a number of fun and lively events to mark this landmark occasion.

We launched the over-8s' state-of-the-art playground and opened up the restored McKenzie Gardens – two large-scale projects, funded by major events income, that have been warmly welcomed and well received by the local community.

We've also instigated many smaller initiatives to do with the park's upkeep that we hope will enhance your enjoyment of it even more.

Finsbury Park has served the boroughs of Hackney, Haringey and Islington very well over the last 150 years and it's my responsibility to ensure that remains the case for many more to come.

Cllr Kirsten Hearn  
Cabinet Member for Climate Change & Sustainability  
Ward Councillor for Stroud Green





# Finsbury Park's 150th birthday celebrations



2019 was a landmark year for Finsbury Park as it turned 150 and communities from across the three boroughs – including children & families – celebrated that historic, momentous milestone by enjoying a range of activities and events.

Held over a week and a half around the park's actual birthday (7th August), a family fun day and the opening of a new 8+ playground kicked things off at the very start of the month.

London's largest, free Latin music festival La Clave Fest – packed full with flamenco, football and salsa – got everyone up on their feet and dancing to the beat on 3rd August.

The newly-restored McKenzie Gardens, featuring a commemorative plinth and new archway, was officially unveiled on 7th August to mark the park turning a century and a half.

The Mayors of Haringey & Islington and the Speaker of Hackney did the honour, as well as Cllr Kirsten Hearn, Haringey's Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability. There was also a giant FP 150 photo display, showing nostalgic images from the park over the years.

The Park Theatre put on a special, one-off production of their play 'Park Life' too in the marquee at the park on 8th August.

That suitably set the scene for the final act – a three-day, celebratory community festival at the weekend (9th-11th August) to round it all off in fitting style.

## Small grants budget

To help celebrate Finsbury Park's 150th anniversary, we awarded more than £20,000 for local groups to organise exciting events and ambitious projects.

Among the groups to be allocated funding were:

## Friends of Finsbury Park

This small grant helped support the Friends of Finsbury Park as they published a new, updated edition of the 'A Park for Finsbury' – a book featuring more information about the pulling down of Hornsey Wood to make way for the park; the reservoir underneath the park; the £6m spent on the park in the Noughties and all the famous people who have visited the park – from Sylvia Pankhurst to Bob Dylan.

## La Clave Fest

La Clave Fest took place in Finsbury Park for the very first time, attracting over 7,000 people.

This free, multi-arts community festival celebrates the contribution of London's Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese communities by bringing the best UK-based Latin talent in music, dance, theatre, film, food, visual and performing arts.

## Print in the Park

A free creative skills event, Print in the Park brought together experienced textile and graphic designers with live music, games, food and market traders.

## Park Theatre

Finsbury Park's local theatre created and delivered a bespoke performance of Park Life. An original work devised from scratch by the Park Players, this rollercoaster of a play focused on the different personalities and events that have brought those people together in the park and also identified times when these different personalities didn't see eye to eye.

## Jack in the Box

A mobile, real-size elephant activity that reflected on a notable incident in the park's history, when Jim the Elephant became loose from his keeper and escaped into the park, duly causing damage to the bandstand.



# Meet The Team

**Finsbury Park is staffed by a dedicated team of professionals, with manager Anthony Healey overseeing the groundwork of the park's gardeners, keepers and rangers.**

Two members of the team, Park Rangers Mark Svensson & Johan Zanoli, are relatively new to the fold having joined the Parks service in Haringey within the last 12 months.

The newly created Park Ranger roles will have two key functions throughout the year. The first key function is to create activities in the park that local residents and park users can join and help to make the park more active and feel safer. The second key function will be to work alongside the Council's Enforcement Team and the police to help them improve safety in the park and tackle any anti-social behaviour.

By way of a humble introduction, here they tell us a little bit about themselves and what they hope to achieve overall.

They're pictured above in a team photo with their colleagues in Finsbury Park.

## Mark Svensson

I joined Haringey in June shortly after studying Environmental Conservation, which was a shift from my career in television. I found myself both fascinated and disappointed after taking a role on a zero-waste permaculture farm while living in the tropics of Australia. This was my initial long-term exposure of just how lacklustre biodiversity was – and is – not only in Australia and England, but all over the globe. Conservation is a major topic, particularly now with climate change at the forefront of media attention and the visible change in seasons. I believe my enthusiasm for the environment, along with a collective understanding and experience of how to improve the current ecological climate, is key within a flagship park such as Finsbury Park. This allows for the perfect opportunity to not only get the public's attention, but allow the community to take part as well through volunteer programmes for adults and children.

## Johan Zanoli

I joined the Finsbury Park team in October, although my passion for nature began long before then. I started

my career as a conservationist in 2008 as Game Ranch Manager in the beautiful Klein Karoo area in South Africa, where most of my work was wildlife population management and getting local farmers involved in leopard-conscious farming methods with the Cape Leopard Trust. Following the naturalist in me, I then moved to Germany where I was fortunate enough to work on a private biological farm, implementing new agricultural methods and finding solutions to various ecological challenges. I am excited about my new position as park ranger in Finsbury Park as I am hoping to restore some of the habitat for indigenous fauna and flora and improve still further the way we manage green waste and recycling. Furthermore, I'd like to implement volunteer programmes for young and old and get them all into environmental awareness and education.



Back Row: William O'Conner (Park Keeper), Ekow Crentsil (Hygiene Operative), Mohammed Umaru (Hygiene Operative), Mark Svensson (Park Ranger), Anthony Healey (Finsbury Park Manager) & Claude Ribes (Gardening/Hygiene Operative). Front Row: Johan Zanoli (Park Ranger) & Henry Grafton (Gardening/Hygiene Operative).

## Green Flag

In July, Finsbury Park retained its Green Flag along with 21 other parks in the borough. There's no denying that 2018 wasn't without its challenges when a few parks were deemed to be below the Green Flag standard. But, following a programme of physical improvements that saw the Council and its partners working hard together, standards were improved and many of Haringey's parks continue to be rated among the very best in the country.

## Basketball & Netball Courts

Finsbury Park has a comprehensive and well-designed area for ball sports, including basketball, netball and volleyball. With improvements to the basketball courts having already been done previously, it was high time to upgrade the netball and volleyball areas to the exact same standard in early 2019.

Brand new, ball-court fencing now runs around the perimeter of the blue tarmac surface, which has had a specialist coating

applied to it to ensure its hard-wearing and safe long into the future. A full set of regulation court lines were applied to all surfaces too.

Additionally, wider entrances were installed at the netball courts to allow ease of access for the all-inclusive cycling group, Pedal Power.

## Tennis Courts

Community-led, creative and innovative sports development charity Access to Sports collaborated with the Council to upgrade the tennis courts in Finsbury Park. Improvements have already seen new fencing & surfacing installed, & with new floodlights still to come, these works will ultimately result in a much-improved community asset that can be used all year round.

Once the renovation work has been completed, Access to Sports will provide a diverse coaching programme for young people and adults. They will also deliver a coaching education programme that equips local people with nationally recognised qualifications.



# Environmental Impact Fee

The Environmental Impact Fee (EIF) is a flat rate charge (dependent on the type and size of the event) levied against all event organisers to cover the cost of its environmental impact on the park.

It is kept separate from other income received and utilised to address the immediate priorities for funding identified by the fellow stakeholders/Friends of the park.

The 2019/20 EIF for Finsbury Park has been distributed evenly between five community groups this year, with Edible Landscapes, Furtherfield, the Finsbury Park Sports Partnership, the Ladder Community Safety Partnership and Pedal Power each receiving £9,600 from the allotted £48,000 pot to pay for their suggestions.

It is proposed this money will be spent on the following initiatives:

- Biodiversity improvements, with the addition of new habitats and forage for bees (Edible Landscapes).
- Family Days during the half-term holidays (Edible Landscapes).
- Forest Gardening courses (Edible Landscapes).
- Skills Development sessions (Edible Landscapes).
- An outdoor PA system (Finsbury Park Sports Partnership).
- An accessible, free and family-friendly event for 500+ people from local communities (Furtherfield).
- Three new digital activities by local cultural organisations in their own locations (Furtherfield).
- A second metal, ornate archway for the McKenzie Flower Garden (Ladder Community Safety Partnership).
- One cycle trainer for drop-in sessions on Tuesday and Saturday (Pedal Power).
- Continued usage of the athletics track (Pedal Power).

## Ward Councillors

### Harringay

**CLLR GINA ADAMOU**

✉ [gina.adamou@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:gina.adamou@haringey.gov.uk)

**CLLR ZENA BRABAZON**

✉ [zena.brabazon@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:zena.brabazon@haringey.gov.uk)

**CLLR SARAH JAMES**

✉ [sarah.james@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.james@haringey.gov.uk)

### Stroud Green

**CLLR ELDRIDGE CULVERWELL**

✉ [eldridge.culverwell@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:eldridge.culverwell@haringey.gov.uk)

**CLLR KIRSTEN HEARN**

✉ [kirsten.hearn@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:kirsten.hearn@haringey.gov.uk)

**CLLR DANIEL STONE**

✉ [daniel.stone@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:daniel.stone@haringey.gov.uk)

If you live in Hackney or Islington, you can find details for your councillors on your local council website [www.hackney.gov.uk](http://www.hackney.gov.uk) or [www.islington.gov.uk](http://www.islington.gov.uk)

Event	Date	More information
Manning's Family Funfair	4 April - 19 April	<a href="http://www.london-funfairs.co.uk">www.london-funfairs.co.uk</a>
Tough Mudder	17 - 18 April	<a href="http://www.toughmudder.co.uk">www.toughmudder.co.uk</a>
Cancer Research Pretty Muddy	24 May	<a href="http://www.raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org">www.raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org</a>
Festival of cycling & walking	14 Jun	<a href="http://www.haringey.gov.uk">www.haringey.gov.uk</a>
Kings of Leon, Community Festival Weekend	26 - 28 June	<a href="http://www.festivalrepublic.com">www.festivalrepublic.com</a>
Wireless Festival	3 - 5 July	<a href="http://www.wirelessfestival.co.uk">www.wirelessfestival.co.uk</a>
Haringey Young Musicians Festival	8 Jul	<a href="http://www.haringey.gov.uk">www.haringey.gov.uk</a>
The 1975	11 Jul	<a href="http://www.festivalrepublic.com">www.festivalrepublic.com</a>
La Clave Festival and Community Event	1 - 2 August	<a href="http://www.laclavefest.co.uk">www.laclavefest.co.uk</a> / <a href="http://www.haringey.gov.uk">www.haringey.gov.uk</a>
London Jerk Festival	8 Aug	<a href="http://www.londonjerkfestival.com">www.londonjerkfestival.com</a>
Peggy Gou Presents Pleasure Gardens	9 Aug	<a href="http://www.krankbrother.com">www.krankbrother.com</a>
Unleash Presents Solomun	15 Aug	<a href="http://www.krankbrother.com">www.krankbrother.com</a>
Rough Runner	3 - 6 September	<a href="http://www.roughrunner.com">www.roughrunner.com</a>
Zippos Circus	13 - 18 October	<a href="http://www.zippos.co.uk">www.zippos.co.uk</a>

Subject to change. Please check event organisers' /Haringey Council websites for latest information